

5. Description of a New Species of Monœcious Worm, belonging to the Class Turbellaria and Genus *Serpentaria*.
By W. BAIRD, M.D., F.L.S., &c.

The Worm which I now bring before the notice of the Zoological Society is in the collection of the Derby Museum (the Free Public Museum) of Liverpool; and I am indebted to the kindness of Mr. Moore, the Curator of that institution, for an inspection of it. It was presented to the Museum by Captain Berry, of the ship 'Richard Cobden' of Liverpool; and I have given his name to the species.

SERPENTARIA BERRYI, nov. sp.

Body flattened, ribbon-shaped, thicker and broader at the anterior extremity, becoming thinner and narrower as it descends. The central portion of the body is the thickest, becoming sharp at the outer edges. The anterior part of the body is rather convex, and finely striated across for a length of about 5 or 6 inches. After that, it is smooth, but marked on the dorsal surface with a keel or raised narrow ridge, which runs down throughout the remainder of its length to the posterior extremity. It is divided into very numerous narrow segments. The mouth is very small and obscure. The fissures on each side of the head are distinctly marked; and the aperture underneath leading to the visceral cavity is large, oval, and strongly puckered on its inner edge. As preserved in spirits, the colour appears to be a uniform dull greyish yellow.

Total length of specimen, preserved in spirits, 16 inches; breadth at about 2 inches from the anterior extremity 9 lines, breadth near the tail about 3 lines.

In general shape this Worm approaches very nearly to one found on the northern shores of our own coast, the *Serpentaria fragilis* of Goodsir, especially as that species is represented by Sir J. Dalyell in his 'Powers of the Creator,' vol. ii. pl. 6. A large Worm from the coast near Montrose has also been described by Dr. Gray in the 'Proceedings of the Zoological Society' for 1857, under the name of *Lineus beatticæi*, which in many respects resembles this species, though perhaps that may be identical with the *Serpentaria fragilis* of Goodsir.

Captain Berry, in his notes upon the capture of this Worm, says, "This Worm was taken in a drift-net off Singapore, and kept alive in a bucket of water for a day or two. When at rest it lay at the bottom, contracted to about 6 inches in length. When swimming, it stretched to about the length it now is (16 inches); but when irritated, it stretched to a length of between 2 and 3 feet. When put into spirits, it vomited the other Worm in the bottle."

One of the peculiarities of the family to which the genus *Serpentaria* belongs, is the curious facility which these Worms possess of vomiting, or expelling from the large aperture under the head, the whole of the alimentary canal. A case of this sort was recorded by

the late Mr. Beattie of Montrose, in regard to the *Lineus longissimus*, in the Society's 'Proceedings' for 1858 (p. 307). The specimen there referred to is now in the collection of the British Museum. We have a specimen also, in the same collection, of the *Serpentaria fragilis*, belonging to the collection of "non-parasitical Worms" of the late Dr. Johnston, which, according to the usual habit of these Worms, is broken into many pieces, and in which this tube or alimentary canal appears partly detached and partly remaining fixed in the body of the Worm. The case under notice at present is the third instance which has occurred to me of this curious fact. Capt. Berry, having seen the Worm vomit forth the whole tube, considered the expelled part an Entozoon; whilst Mr. Beattie, in his case, looked upon it as the young of the *Lineus*, thus making these animals to be viviparous. Diesing, in his 'Systema Helminthum,' mentions two genera in which this circumstance occurs, and quotes two species in which, he says, "tubus cibarius totus interdum expellitur." In all probability it is a circumstance which is common to all the species of the genera *Lineus*, *Meckelia*, and *Serpentaria*.

6. Notes on some Recent Brachiopoda dredged by the late Lucas Barrett off the North-east Coast of Jamaica, and now forming part of the Collection of Mr. R. MacAndrew. By THOMAS DAVIDSON, Esq., F.R.S., F.G.S., &c.

(Plate XII.)

During his residence in Jamaica the late Lucas Barrett dredged several new and interesting small species of Brachiopoda, which he brought to England in 1862, and placed in the hands of the late Dr. S. P. Woodward for description; but, alas! owing to that naturalist's state of health, this task was never accomplished. In May 1864 Dr. Woodward requested me to describe and figure a new and very remarkable species of *Thecidium*, which formed part of the little series above mentioned; and more recently Mr. R. MacAndrew has deposited the whole collection in my hands for description. I will therefore briefly allude to the species already known, and give descriptions of those that are new to science.

The Brachiopoda found by Mr. Barrett seem to belong to five species, of which three are new.

1. TEREBRATULINA CAPUT-SERPENTIS?

Some seven examples were dredged on the north-east coast of Jamaica, at depths of 60 and 150 fathoms; but as none of the specimens exceeded two lines in length and were very young shells, it is not possible to say with certainty whether the full-grown shell may not have presented peculiarities which would have distinguished it from Linnæus's well-known and far-spread species.